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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 175

By Clabough

A RESOLUTION To recognize and honor Sara Watson upon her receipt of the Girl Scout Gold Award.

WHEREAS, At a time when this nation's youth face difficult challenges, the Girl Scouts of America is one of our finest assets, providing young ladies with an educational program that contributes significantly to their character development, citizenship training, and improved mental and physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Watson, after considerable effort and diligent preparation, has earned the highest award a Girl Scout can attain, the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Watson will be honored and presented with this laurel at a Gold Award Ceremony held on April 22, 2001, at the Maryville First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes girls who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to their communities and an outstanding dedication to achievement; and

WHEREAS, To receive the award, a Senior Girl Scout must earn four interest patches, the Senior Girl Scout pin, the Exploration pin, and the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work involving leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these seven recognitions, she must plan and carry out a Girl Scout Gold Award project, which requires at least 50 hours of work; and

WHEREAS, Gold Award recipients are eligible for special college scholarships, are officially recognized by the United States government, and have preferred status when applying for jobs with many prospective employers; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Watson's Gold Award Project greatly contributed to the betterment of her community and reflected the true spirit of Volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, For her Gold Award project, Sarah Watson teamed up with fellow troop member Erin Henegar to beautify the local Cedar Grove Nature Trail; Sarah collected, installed, and identified birdhouses donated by local merchants; she also arranged for the donation of mulch and annual flowers, and assisted Erin in the planting of wildflowers along the trail; and

WHEREAS, The Cedar Grove Nature Trail is now a great place for the citizens of Blount County to walk and enjoy the natural splendor of this state; the nature trail, due to Sarah and Erin's vision and hard work is also a great place for learning; local schools are now able to bring their students there and educate them about the environment; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Judy Deardorff and Jim Watson, Sarah Watson is a senior at Alcoa High School, where she has demonstrated remarkable academic and athletic prowess; and

WHEREAS, She earned inclusion on the Honor Roll for four years, and has served for two years as a valuable member of her High School's Swim Team; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Watson has displayed tremendous commitment and athletic and artistic ability as a talented dancer; she has been a student at the Van Metre School of Dance for 13 years and has also appeared for two seasons in the Appalachian Ballet Company's *The Nutcracker*, and

WHEREAS, Active in her community, Sarah has participated in numerous service projects with her Girl Scout Troop, and has volunteered at the University of Tennessee Hospital during the summer; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her meritorious service with the Girl Scouts of America, Sarah Watson has honored the Girl Scout Promise: serving God and her country and courageously living the Girl Scout Law; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that we should pause to recognize Sarah Watson as one of the most outstanding young people in our State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and honor Sarah Watson upon earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, commend her meritorious service to Maryville and Blount County, and extend to her our heartfelt best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.